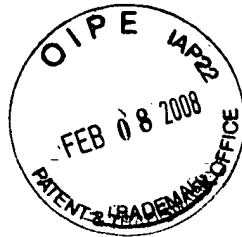


IN THE CLAIMS:



Claim 1 (currently amended)

1. A holding system for a dispensing system for hardenable materials, the dispensing system comprising a dispensing gun and a product cartridge having a dispensing tip defining a dispensing opening, the holding system comprising:

a holding structure comprising a side wall and a bottom wall, where the holding structure defines a main opening, at least one wall opening, and a holding chamber, whereby the holding chamber is sized and dimensioned to receive at least a portion of the dispensing system;
a plug projection extending from the bottom wall into the holding chamber, where the at least one wall opening is arranged to allow access to the plug projection within the holding chamber; and
a plurality of guide ribs that extend from the side wall into the holding chamber; whereby
the holding chamber is sized and dimensioned to receive the dispensing system; and
as the dispensing system is placed into the holding chamber, at least one of the guide ribs engages a portion of the dispensing system to facilitate entry of the plug projection into the dispensing opening;
and
as the dispensing system is placed within the holding chamber, entry of the plug projection into the dispensing opening can further be facilitated by reaching through the at least one wall opening.
whereby
~~the holding chamber is sized and dimensioned to receive the product~~
cartridge.

Claim 2 (canceled)

~~2. A holding system as recited in claim 1, in which at least one wall opening is formed in the holding structure adjacent to the plug projection.~~

Claim 3 (canceled)

~~3. A holding system as recited in claim 1, in which a plurality of guide ribs extend from the side wall into the holding chamber, where, when the product cartridge is placed into the holding chamber, at least one of the guide ribs engages a portion of the dispensing system to facilitate entry of the plug projection into the dispensing opening.~~

Claim 4 (original)

4. A holding system as recited in claim 3, in which the guide ribs define a central portion of the holding chamber and at least one perimeter portion of the holding chamber, where the guide ribs and at least one perimeter portion are sized, dimensioned, and located to allow the dispensing system to be displaced into the holding chamber such that the plug projection may enter the dispensing opening.

Claim 5 (original)

5. A holding system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a belt clip secured to the holding structure, where the belt clip allows the holding structure to be suspended from a belt worn by an operator.

Claim 6 (canceled)

~~6. A holding system as recited in claim 1, further comprising at least one guide rib extending from the side wall into the holding chamber, whereby, when the product cartridge is placed into the holding chamber, the guide rib is arranged to engage a portion of the dispensing system to facilitate entry of the plug projection into the dispensing opening.~~

Claim 7 (original)

7. A holding system as recited in claim 1, in which the holding structure comprises a barrel portion and a cap portion, where:
the barrel portion defines a portion of the side wall;
the cap portion defines a portion of the side wall and the bottom wall; and
the cap portion is detachably attached to the barrel portion to facilitate access to the plug projection.

Claim 8 (original)

8. A holding system as recited in claim 1, in which the holding structure comprises a container portion and a projection member, where:
the container portion defines the side wall and the bottom wall; and
the projection member is detachably attached to the container portion such that the projection member defines the plug projection.

Claim 9 (original)

9. A holding system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a support assembly attached to the holding structure, where the support assembly supports the holding structure in a desired orientation relative to a support surface.

Claim 10 (original)

10. A holding system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a support rack, where the support rack engages the holding structure to support the holding structure in a desired orientation relative to a support surface.

Claim 11 (currently amended)

11. A method of holding a dispensing system for hardenable materials, the dispensing system comprising a dispensing gun and a product cartridge having a dispensing tip defining a dispensing opening, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a holding structure comprising a side wall and a bottom wall,

where

the holding structure defines a main opening, at least one wall opening formed in the side wall, and a holding chamber, ~~and~~

the holding chamber is sized and dimensioned to receive ~~the product cartridge~~ at least a portion of the dispensing system, ~~and~~

the at least one wall opening is formed adjacent to the plug projection;

forming a plug projection on the bottom wall of the holding structure,

where the plug projection extends into the holding chamber; and

forming at least one guide rib on the side wall of the holding structure,
where the at least one guide rib extends into the holding chamber;
displacing the product cartridge into the holding chamber such that the
guide rib engages a portion of the dispensing system to facilitate
entry of the plug projection into the dispensing opening; and
reaching through the at least one wall opening to facilitate entry of the plug
projection into the dispensing opening.

Claim 12 (canceled)

~~12. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the steps of
forming at least one wall opening in the holding structure adjacent to the plug
projection.~~

Claim 13 (original)

13. A method as recited in claim 11, in which the step of providing the
holding structure comprises the steps of:
providing a barrel portion and a cap portion; and
detachably attaching the cap portion to the barrel portion such that the
barrel portion defines a portion of the side wall and the cap portion
defines a portion of the side wall and the bottom wall.

Claim 14 (original)

14. A method as recited in claim 11, in which the step of providing the
holding structure comprises the steps of:
providing a container portion and a projection member; and

detachably attaching the projection member to the container portion such that the projection member defines the plug projection.

Claim 15 (original)

15. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the steps of: attaching a support assembly to the holding structure; and arranging the support assembly in a retracted configuration; and arranging the support assembly in an extended configuration in which the support assembly supports the holding structure in a desired orientation relative to a support surface.

Claim 16 (original)

16. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the steps of: providing a support rack; and arranging the holding structure on the support rack such that the support rack supports the holding structure in a desired orientation relative to a support surface.

Claim 17 (currently amended)

17. A holding system for a dispensing system for hardenable materials, the dispensing system comprising a dispensing gun and a product cartridge having a dispensing tip defining a dispensing opening, the holding system comprising:

a holding structure comprising a side wall and a bottom wall, where the holding structure defines a main opening, a holding chamber, and at least one wall opening;

a plug projection extending from the bottom wall into the holding chamber,
where the at least one wall opening is arranged to allow access to
the plug projection within the holding chamber; and
~~at least one guide rib~~ a plurality of guide ribs extending from the side wall
into the holding chamber; whereby
the holding chamber is sized and dimensioned to receive at least a portion
of the product-cartridge dispensing system; and
when the ~~product-cartridge~~ dispensing system is placed into the holding
chamber, at least one of the guide rib-ribs engages the dispensing
system to facilitate entry of the plug projection into the dispensing
opening; and
when the dispensing system is placed into the holding chamber, the wall
opening are arranged to facilitate entry of the plug projection into
the dispensing opening may further be facilitated by reaching
through the wall opening.

Claim 18 (canceled)

~~18. A holding system as recited in claim 17, in which a plurality of guide ribs extend from the side wall into the holding chamber, where, when the product cartridge is placed into the holding chamber, at least one of the guide ribs engages a portion of the dispensing system to facilitate entry of the plug projection into the dispensing opening.~~

Claim 19 (original)

19. A holding system as recited in claim 18, in which the guide ribs define a central portion of the holding chamber and at least one perimeter portion of the holding chamber, where the guide ribs and at least one perimeter portion

are sized, dimensioned, and located to allow the dispensing system to be displaced into the holding chamber such that the plug projection may enter the dispensing opening.

Claim 20 (original)

20. A holding system as recited in claim 17, in which the holding structure comprises a barrel portion and a cap portion, where:
the barrel portion defines a portion of the side wall;
the cap portion defines a portion of the side wall and the bottom wall; and
the cap portion is detachably attached to the barrel portion to facilitate access to the plug projection.

Claim 21 (original)

21. A holding system as recited in claim 17, in which the holding structure comprises a container portion and a projection member, where:
the container portion defines the side wall and the bottom wall; and
the projection member is detachably attached to the container portion such that the projection member defines the plug projection.

Claim 22 (original)

22. A holding system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a support system comprising:
a support projection formed on the holding structure;
first, second, and third brace projections extending from the holding structure; and
a support member; wherein

the support member engages the support projection to place the support system in a hanging configuration; and
the support member engages the brace projections to place the support system in a free-standing configuration.

Claim 23 (original)

23. A method as recited in claim 12, further comprising the steps of:
forming a support projection on the holding structure;
forming first, second, and third brace projections on the holding structure;
securing a support member to the support projection to place the support system in a hanging configuration; and
securing the support member to the brace projections to place the support system in a free-standing configuration.

Claim 24 (original)

24. A holding system as recited in claim 17, further comprising a support system comprising:
a support projection formed on the holding structure;
first, second, and third brace projections extending from the holding structure; and
a support member; wherein
the support member engages the support projection to place the support system in a hanging configuration; and
the support member engages the brace projections to place the support system in a free-standing configuration.

Claim 25 (new)

25. A holding system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a clip member and a plurality of pairs of clip openings formed in the holding structure, where the clip member is deformable such that extension portions of the clip member engage a selected one of the pairs of clip openings to determine a location of the clip member relative to the holding structure.